

OKC-0744  
Copy 7 of 9

22 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Mr. John Parangosky  
SUBJECT : Pilot Survival Equipment, Project OXCART

1. Again under the heading of unfinished or unassigned tasks connected with Project OXCART, I have encountered a note to myself on the question of a proper survival kit for the OXCART vehicle. Especially I am curious about the locus of responsibility for both the configuration of the container and its contents.

2. Having been associated rather intimately myself with the survival gear problem with the U-2, I would hope that we can avoid the last minute panic that attended the construction of appropriate survival kits for that Project. Under the CHALICE scheme we worked to equip survival kits under the following general headings:

- a. Warm weather or desert survival.
- b. Cold weather or Arctic survival.
- c. Over water survival.
- d. Special survival items particular to the Agency mission:  
i.e., escape money, barter items, sterile blood chits.

With the tremendously increased projected length of OXCART missions, a single flight will encompass possibly all of the above categories; thus greater selectivity must be exercised, and I am convinced that we should not only take advantage of the latest service developments in this area, but should be prepared to fund research in TSD to meet specific requirements connected with the advanced state of the art in the air frame itself. I assume that General Flickinger will play a vital role in this area.

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25X1  
OXC-0744  
Page 2

3. While it may be premature to actually start to select items for such a kit, I am of the belief that we should begin to devote some thought and effort to planning for this problem right now. As soon as test flights begin [redacted] we will have a requirement for a survival kit, and as you know, that is not nearly as far away as it seems. I will be glad to discuss this with you at your convenience.

SIGNED

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief, DPD-DD/P

CC: DD/P (Copy No. 4)  
General Flickinger (Copy No. 5)

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